

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-05 IO-10

L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /079 W
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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 711

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0472

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: CONTINGENCY PRESS TREATMENT OF EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL

REF: A. STATE 264704 B. MBFR VIENNA 463

AT ITS DECEMBER 4 MEETING, THE AD HOC GROUP APPROVED THE FOLLOWING
REVISED CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE REGARDING THE EASTERN PROPOSAL
FOR A MANPOWER FREEZE. THE GUIDANCE WAS APPROVED ON AN INTERIM
BASIS, FOR USE IN THE EVENT OF PRESS INQUIRIES RESULTING FROM
EASTERN PRESS LEAKS, BEOFE GUIDANCE IS RECEIVED FROM NATO.

BEGIN TEXT.

REVISED CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE ON
EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL

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POSSIBLE PRESS QUESTION:

IS IT TRUE THAT THE EAST HAS PROPOSED A FREEZE ON ALL THE FORCES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS? IF SO, WHAT IS THE WESTERN ATTITUDE TOWARDS THIS PROPOSAL?

SUGGESTED WESTERN REPLY:

1. YES. EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES HAVE SUGGESTED A FREEZE ON ALL MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA, EXCEPT THE NAVY WHICH, AS YOU KNOW, HAS BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS BY AGREEMENT.

2. THE ALLIES ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE EASTERN PROPOSAL TO FREEZE FORCES AT THE PRESENT LEVELS. OUR JOB IN VIENNA IS TO NEGOTIATE REDUCTIONS.

3. IN PRACTICAL TERMS, THE PROPOSAL IS UNWORKABLE. THE EAST HAS REFUSED EVEN TO DISCUSS FORCE LEVELS IN THE AREA. THE WEST HAS PRESENTED NUMBERS BUT THE EAST HAS CHALLENGED THEM WITHOUT PRODUCING NUMBERS OF ITS OWN. IT WOULD BE ILLUSORY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO RESPECT PRESENT FORCE LEVELS WHEN THERE IS NO AGREEMENT AS TO WHAT THOSE FORCE LEVELS ARE.

4. THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL SEEMS INTENDED TO PREJUDICE SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS FOR REDUCTIONS IN FAVOR OF THE EASTERN AIM OF PRESERVING THE PRESENT UNEQUAL RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES.

5. THE EASTERN PROPOSAL ALSO ENVISAGES INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS BY EACH COUNTRY NOT TO EXCEED THE PRESENT LEVEL OF ITS OWN FORCES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS. THIS WOULD ESTABLISH NATIONAL CEILINGS, TO WHICH THE WEST IS FIRMLY OPPOSED.

6. THESE ARE THE REASONS THE ALLIES ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE EASTERN PROPOSAL. BUT THEY ARE CONTINUING TO STUDY THE ISSUES IT RAISES. END TEXT.RESOR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MBFR, PRESS RELEASES, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MBFRV00472
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740352-1024
From: MBFR VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741258/aaaabxny.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 264704 B. MBFR VIENNA 463
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: CONTINGENCY PRESS TREATMENT OF EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005